

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THANKING THE REVEREND DR. BOB PATTERSON

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the reverend Dr. Bob Patterson for his message today. Bob is no stranger to the halls of the United States House or to Georgia congressmen named Phil. When he was a young man growing up in Hall County, Georgia, in the 1970s, he was appointed to serve as a House page by then Congressman Phil Landrum, and later, he was on detached duty with the House Press Gallery during the Nixon impeachment inquiry.

But Bob did not answer to the siren song of politics. He returned to Georgia to finish college, and then he headed to Texas for seminary. Ministers are not known for staying in one place too long, but Bob has made his home at the First Baptist Church of Warm Springs, Georgia, since 1986.

Warm Springs, Georgia, should sound familiar to those who take a strong interest in American history. Even before he was elected President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a frequent visitor and a part-time resident. He was convinced that the warm spring water that existed there had a healing effect on his polio, and he set up an institute in this west Georgia community where other victims of the disease, many of them children, could come for care.

FDR built a house in Warm Springs that is known as the Little White House, and it was in this house in 1945 that the President died.

FDR saw Warm Springs as a place to serve others, and Bob Patterson has carried on that tradition in the heart of Meriwether County. The thesis for his doctoral dissertation was entitled "Developing a Need-Based Community Ministry Strategy for First Baptist Church in Warm Springs." He has personally ministered to the needs in his local community by serving the Family Connection initiative. In fact, he has been honored by both the Rotary

and the Pilot clubs for his outstanding contribution to all of Meriwether County.

U.S. MUST DEVELOP EXIT STRATEGY IN IRAQ

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the United States must begin to present an exit strategy in Iraq. Bombing the villages to save the villages is not an exit strategy. It is absolutely horrific that as many as 100,000 innocent civilians may have perished in Iraq. Stopping troops who have served their tour of duty from returning to their families is not an exit strategy. Expanding house-to-house fighting across Iraq is not an exit strategy.

The United States must develop an exit strategy in Iraq. It must bring our troops home, and we must seek a new relationship with the United Nations to help make this possible.

In the weeks ahead, I will join with other Members of the House in expanding this discussion. We have a new Congress coming up. We have to take new directions. And we can start by discussing a new direction for Iraq that will result in the United States getting out, bringing our troops home and reestablishing our relationship with the world.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it is business as usual after the election here in Washington. Right now they are writing a bill to finance the entire Federal Government, hundreds of billions of dollars, behind closed doors. It will be brought up with one vote, no amendments allowed, up or down. Why not? Maybe because we are borrowing \$1 million a minute to run the Federal Government, \$1 million a minute.

Yesterday the Pension Benefit Guarantee Fund announced that its deficit has doubled to \$24 billion. They are broke. They cannot guarantee pensions. Social Security will collect \$163 billion more than it needs, but every penny will be borrowed and spent this year for current consumption. We hit the federal debt limit for the third time in 3 years, but the Federal Government is not in default because they are borrowing from Federal employees' pension savings.

Is this not great? Nothing wrong with this picture. We do not need to change. The majority has a plan: more spending, more borrowing, more tax cuts, more dynamic scoring, which means we pretend none of this exists, and we pass the bill to our kids and grandkids.

WORKING TOGETHER

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the election is over, and I rise to congratulate President Bush, a fellow Texan, on his reelection. I look forward to working with the President over the next 4 years, particularly to ensure the security of our Nation and to support our men and women in combat. The elimination of terrorist networks across the world and victory in Iraq are mutual goals on which I think we can work together.

While the President's election victory was decisive, 51 percent does not constitute a mandate. Nearly half of America voted for a Democratic platform that protects Social Security and provides more Americans with health insurance. So the President should not mistake this election as a mandate for his efforts to privatize Social Security.

To put Social Security in the hands of a volatile stock market would dismantle our Nation's secured social safety network. We must do more to stop the increase in Americans without health insurance. To expand health savings accounts and association health plans would increase the ranks of uninsured by more than 1 million per year.

During the President's first term, we saw the middle class dwindle, the gap between rich and poor widen. If the President wants to reverse this trend and provide Americans with true health care and economic security, we can work together. But if working together means enacting controversial policies that dismantle the social safety net, this President can count on aggressive opposition.

God bless the United States of America.

TROUBLING ECONOMIC NEWS

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, as we returned for this lame duck session, we are confronted with a slew of troubling economic news. Just yesterday we learned that inflation is up by 1.7 percent, the sharpest monthly increase in over 15 years. The value of the dollar is dropping to all-time new lows. We also learned that the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation's long-term deficit doubled from \$11.2 billion to \$23.3 billion, a deficit resulting from the PBGC assuming responsibilities for pension plans of 192 failed companies, up from 155 last year alone.

And while we are confronting these new challenges, the annual budget deficit is at \$400 billion, an all-time high. On top of the pension benefit deficit, the Federal Government has added, in just the last 3 years, \$2 trillion to the Nation's debt, and we are being asked to vote on an additional \$900 billion just this week alone.

Mr. Speaker, the American people look to us to solve their problems,